



FEED THE FUTURE MALAWI IMPROVED SEED SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGIES



The International Potato Center (CIP) and its partners in Malawi are implementing the , **Malawi Improved Seed Systems and Technologies** project which has been designed to expand the production and utilization of nutritious orange-fleshed sweetpotato (OFSP) in seven districts in USAID's Feed the Future (FTF) zones of influence in Malawi. The project will result in improved diet diversity, in particular through increased vitamin A intake among young children and women of reproductive age, enhanced food security through more productive and resilient farming systems, and increase rural incomes from sale of OFSP roots into strengthened market chains.

The project will reach 50,000 smallholder farming households (HH), at least 80% of which will be vulnerable households with children under five years of age. Through further collaborative partnerships and community distribution, 300,000 additional households will receive OFSP planting material resulting in a

doubling of the area under OFSP production in the target districts. Utilization of improved OFSP varieties released in 2011 will increase productivity of OFSP production by 55% and generate additional OFSP production of at least 100,000 MT annually.

Malawi Improved Seed Systems and Technologies will contribute to USAID's FTF objectives of inclusive agricultural sector growth and improved nutritional status, especially of women and children. Specifically, the project will contribute to improved agricultural productivity, increased resilience of vulnerable communities and households, and improved access to diverse and quality foods. Strengthening the capacity of organizations, enterprises, and farmers in Malawi for applying improved technologies and management practices is a special emphasis of this project.



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The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative



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The project's main objectives, activities and targets are:

Objective 1: Increased productivity and production of OFSP among smallholders

- ▶ Six nutritious and productive OFSP varieties available for dissemination to farmers
- ▶ Viable and gender equitable vine value chains established that support access to quality planting materials of these varieties for at least 350,000 smallholder HH
- ▶ At least 50,000 smallholder HH growing improved OFSP varieties and using better agronomic practices, and a further 300,000 HH receiving OFSP vines through other channels, resulting in a doubling of OFSP growing area and additional production of at least 100,000 MT annually
- ▶ Improved knowledge and capacity for Disaster Risk Reduction at Department of Agricultural Research Services (DARS) and Department of Agricultural Extension Services (DAES), and among at least 5,000 farmers in risk-prone locations

Objective 2: Improved nutrition knowledge, OFSP utilization, and OFSP consumption at household level, in particular to improve the diets of women and children under five

- ▶ OFSP and vitamin A material integrated into nutrition messaging that reaches 350,000 HH and nutrition counseling reaching 50,000 HH through CARE groups
- ▶ Options for OFSP utilization as baby food developed and promoted at community level among 50,000 HH with 10,000 under-two's and 40,000 under-five's

Objective 3: Improved storage and marketing of fresh OFSP roots and vines

- ▶ At least three new gender responsive technologies and practices for improved fresh root storage disseminated among 2,000 OFSP farmers and traders
- ▶ 20 fresh OFSP root market chains strengthened, resulting in increased gross margins for at least 2,500 smallholder farmers (both men and women farmers)

Special Objective 4: Enhanced human and organizational capacity for scaling up OFSP

- ▶ Step-down training course on sweetpotato provided to at least 1,000 staff in key stakeholder organizations
- ▶ Follow-up capacity strengthening provided through ICT and field-based services reaching at least 800 staff
- ▶ Agriculture & nutrition community of practice supported through knowledge sharing & learning events



Malawi Improved Seed Systems and Technologies will operate in the districts of Balaka, Machinga, Lilongwe (rural), Mchinji, Ntcheu, Dedza, and Mangochi. Within these districts, we will focus on Extension Planning Areas (EPAs) that have high potential for sweetpotato production and high vitamin A deficiency rates. In all districts, we will work closely with the Department of Agricultural Research Services (DARS) and the Department of Agricultural Extension Services (DAES) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MoAFS).

In addition, Malawi Improved Seed Systems and Technologies has assembled a group of Non-Governmental Organizations' (NGO) engaged in food security and nutrition work in some these districts who will be part of the implementation team, and will take up technologies and management practices in their own programming in other parts of the country. Further, the Malawi Improved Seed Systems and Technologies team has begun to explore key partnerships with NGOs who have skills in gender, business development and gender and under implementation further explore these collaborations.

Malawi Improved Seed Systems and Technologies will be implemented on the platform of the newly formed consortium of CGIAR centers in Malawi including CIP, ICRISAT, IITA, and CIMMYT.